

Lineage and Honors History
Of the
494 Air Expeditionary Group (AMC)

Lineage. Established as 494 Bombardment Group (Heavy) on 14 Sep 1943. Activated on 1 Dec 1943. Redesignated 494 Bombardment Group, Heavy on c. 7 Feb 1944. Inactivated on 4 Jan 1946. Consolidated (31 Jan 1984) with the 494 Bombardment Wing, Heavy, which was established, and activated, on 15 Nov 1962. Organized on 1 Feb 1963. Discontinued, and inactivated, on 2 Apr 1966. Redesignated 494 Air Expeditionary Group, and converted to provisional status, on 12 Jun 2002.

Assignments. Second Air Force, 1 Dec 1943; Seventh Air Force, Jun 1944; VII Bomber Command, c. 24 Jun 1944-Dec 1945 (under operational control of CTG 95.6, 3 Nov-12 Dec 1944; Fifth Air Force, 13-14 Dec 1944; V Bomber Command, 15 Dec 1944-27 Jan 1945; Thirteenth Air Force, 28 Jan-19 Mar 1945; XIII Bomber Command, 20-27 Mar 1945; Thirteenth Air Force, 28 Mar-14 Apr 1945). Strategic Air Command, 15 Nov 1962; 816 Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 Feb 1963; 4 Air Division, 1 Jul 1963; 816 Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 Jul 1964; 819 Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 Jul 1965; 19 Air Division, 1 Oct 1965-2 Apr 1966. Air Mobility Command to activate or inactivate at any time after 12 Jun 2002.

Components. *Squadrons:* **373:** 21 Jul-11 Oct 1945. **864:** 1 Dec 1943-4 Jan 1946; 1 Feb 1963-2 Apr 1966. **865:** 1 Dec 1943-4 Jan 1946. **866:** 1 Dec 1943-4 Jan 1946. **867:** 1 Dec 1943-4 Jan 1946. **900** Air Refueling: 1 Feb 1963-2 Apr 1966.

Stations. Wendover Field, UT, 1 Dec 1943; Mountain Home AAFld, ID, 15 Apr-1 Jun 1944; Barking Sands, TH, 15 Jun 1944; Angaur Island, 30 Sep 1944; Yontan, Okinawa,

24 Jun-Dec 1945; Ft Lawton, WA, 2-4 Jan 1946. Sheppard AFB, TX, 1 Feb 1963-2 Apr 1966.

Commanders. Unkn, Dec 1943-Jan 1944; Col Laurence B. Kelley, 20 Jan 1944; Lt Col Lyle E. Halstead, 26 Apr 1945; Col Laurence B. Kelley, 7 Jun 1945-unkn (at least through Sep 1945). Col Frederick D. Berry Jr., 1 Feb 1963; Col Roger L. Hicks Jr., 7 Jul 1964; Col Merrill N. Moore, 17 Aug 1964; Col Roger L. Hicks Jr., 11 Jan 1965-2 Apr 1966.

Aircraft. B-24, 1944-1945. B-52, 1963-1966; KC-135, 1963-1966.

Operations. Trained for combat with B-24s. Moved to Hawaii in Jun 1944 for additional training. Moved to Palau in late Sep 1944, helped to build a base of operations on Angaur, and entered combat on 3 Nov 1944 with attacks on Japanese airfields on Yap and Koror. Conducted strikes on other bypassed enemy installations in the Pacific and against the Japanese in the Philippines. In late 1944, bombed gun emplacements, personnel areas, and storage depots on Corregidor and Caballo at the entrance to Manila Bay; radio installations and power plants at Japanese bases in the Philippines; and enemy airfields, including Clark Field, Luzon. Early in 1945, struck airfields on Mindinao and ammunition and supply dumps in Davao Gulf and Illana Bay. Engaged primarily in attacks against enemy airfields on Kyushu, Jun 1945 to V-J Day, participating in incendiary raids and dropping propaganda leaflets. Struck airfields in China, southern Korea, and around the Inland Sea of Japan. Transported personnel and supplies from Manila to Tokyo after the war. Strategic bombardment and air refueling operations on a global scale to meet operational commitments of SAC, 1963-1966.

Service Streamers. None

Campaign Streamers. *World War II:* Air Offensive, Japan; Eastern Mandates; Western Pacific; Leyte; Luzon; Southern Philippines; Ryukyus; China Offensive; Air Combat Asiatic-Pacific Theater.

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers. None

Decorations. Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)

Lineage, Assignments, Components, Stations, and Honors through 28 Apr 2003

Commanders, Aircraft, and Operations through 2 Apr 1966.

Supersedes published information contained in Charles A. Ravenstein, *Air Force Combat Wings: Lineage and Honors Histories, 1947-1977* (Washington: USGPO, 1984).

Emblem. Approved on 11 Feb 1964

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